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Journal - Office of Legislative Counsel
Friday - 25 June 1971

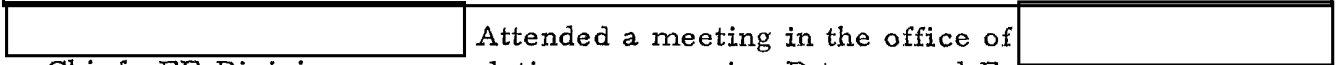
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Attended a meeting in the office of [redacted] Chief, FE Division, on revelations concerning Downey and Fecteau made by Jerome Cohen (of Harvard) in open testimony on China before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today. State Department has asked [redacted] for guidance on this matter. It was agreed that [redacted] would suggest to State that they in effect give a "no comment" answer to any inquiries from the press and delay any response to a congressional inquiry until they could consult with the Agency. Presumably we would agree to brief any senator making an inquiry on this but it was to be made clear this decision would have to be made by the Director.

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25X1 7. [REDACTED] Met with Mr. James D. Speakman, Executive Assistant to Representative John H. Ware (R., Pa.), and discussed with him the Representative's letter to the Agency concerning various newspaper articles forwarded by a constituent, Mrs. Myrtle Roberts of Parkesburg, Pennsylvania. In brief, Mr. Speakman did not question the Agency policy of no comment on newspaper reports and indicated that he would query the Department of Defense and Department of State concerning the matters in question. No further action is required on Representative Ware's letter of 23 June 1971. 25X1

10. (Unclassified - LLM) Met with Joe Sparks, Administrative Assistant to Senator David Gambrell (D., Ga.), and provided him a suggested reply to the constituent inquiry [REDACTED] who questioned 25X1 whether CIA fits into our constitutional system of checks and balances. Mr. Sparks was completely satisfied with our response, which also closes out their request to the Marine Corps. I said I would send him copies of the Director's speech and a brochure on the Agency so that he could handle similar inquiries in the future.

11. (Unclassified - LLM) Delivered FBIS items in which their names were mentioned to the offices of Senators Clifford Case (R., N.J.), George McGovern (D., S. Dak.), Edmund Muskie (D., Maine), Abraham Ribicoff (D., Conn.), and Stuart Symington (D., Mo.).

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1. [] Harry Symmes, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, called today and said John Marks, Executive Assistant to Senator Clifford P. Case, had needled them as to when the Director was going to brief Senator Case on CIA operations into China. This question was raised by Senator Case in a letter to the Secretary a short time ago and it was agreed by the Director at that time that he would talk to the Senator personally about this. I explained to Symmes that the Director had this very much on his mind and planned to speak to Case after first talking with Senator Stennis. I suggested to Symmes that he inform Marks that the Director had made this agreement and undoubtedly would be in touch with the Senator about it upon his return. Symmes said this would be a very satisfactory response for them.

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2. [] Colgate Prentice, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, called. He said State has been asked for their views on the Church bill (S. 1887) comparable to the Badillo bill to bar the Agency from participating in certain types of military or paramilitary operations. Prentice said their preliminary decision was to take a "no comment" position, deferring to the Agency, but he said they were willing to help us out on this if we wished. I told him that I was not sure the Agency would feel it should make substantive comments on the bill but that a consensus should be reached in consultation with OMB as to who would express an Administration position on the bill. Prentice said he would await further word from us. (This is a matter that should probably be discussed with OMB and perhaps in a Legislative Interdepartmental Group meeting.)

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